



Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation
584 Phoenix Drive • Rome, NY 13441
315-338-0393 • 800-765-4990 • Fax 315-338-5694
Email: info@mvedge.org • www.mvedge.org

NARRATIVE INFORMATION SHEET

R02-21-A-015

1. Applicant Identification:

Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation ("MV EDGE")
584 Phoenix Drive
Rome, NY 13441-4105

2. Funding Requested:

- a. Assessment Grant Type: Brownfield Assessment Grant
- b. Federal Funds Requested:
 - i. \$300,000
 - ii. Applicant **is not** requesting a Site-specific Assessment Grant waiver

3. Location: Oneida County, NY (community-wide)

County: Oneida County
State: New York
Country: United States of America

4. Property Information for Site-Specific Applications:

Not Applicable - This application is for community-wide brownfields assessment, targeting communities with highest concentration of brownfields along the historic Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, within Brownfield Opportunity Areas, Opportunity Zones, and those properties within or adjacent to the Mohawk River floodplain.

5. Contacts:

- a. Brownfields Project: Christian J. Mercurio
Vice President, Planning and Development
Mohawk Valley EDGE
584 Phoenix Drive
Rome, NY 13441
cmercurio@mvedge.org 315.338.0393
- b. Chief Executive: Steven J. Dimeo
President
Mohawk Valley EDGE
584 Phoenix Drive
Rome, NY 13441
sjdimeo@mvedge.org 315.338.0393

6. Population:

Oneida County, NY: 228, 671



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7. Other Factors Checklist

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less	n/a
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	n/a
The priority brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	n/a
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e. the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	Page 1, 2, 3
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	Page 1, 2
The reuse of the priority sites(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	Page 2, 3
30% or more of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse planning activities for priority brownfield site(s) within target area	Page 1, 9

8. Letter from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is attached:

Letter dated October 13, 2020
Bernadette Anderson, Chief, Policy and Planning Section, Bureau of Program Mgt.
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Remediation, Bureau of Program Management
625 Broadway, 12th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-7012
P: (518) 402-9764 | F: (518) 402-9722
www.dec.ny.gov



October 13, 2020

Christian Mercurio
Vice President Planning and Development
Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation
584 Phoenix Drive
Rome, NY 13441-4105

Dear Mr. Mercurio:

This is to acknowledge that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received a request from HRP Associates on behalf of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation (MVEDGE), dated October 1, 2020, for a state acknowledgement letter for a Federal Year 2021 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfields grant.

I understand that MVEDGE plans to submit a Brownfield Community-wide Assessment grant application for hazardous substances and petroleum in the amount of \$300,000. Focus of the funding will be to conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments in the communities of Rome, Utica, Sherrill, and Boonville. Funding will also be allocated to conduct inventory characterization and for associated planning (including reuse and/or remediation planning) and community involvement activities. Please note that the USEPA criteria for an assessment grant specifies that, if selected, MVEDGE may only expend up to \$200,000 of the grant on a specific site.

DEC encourages initiatives to redevelop brownfields with the goal of mitigating any environmental and health impacts that they might pose.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Anderson
Chief, Policy and Planning Section
Bureau of Program Management

ec: T. Wesley, USEPA Region 2
A. Devine, USEPA Region 2
J. Brown, DEC Albany
M. Duffany, DEC Region 6
P. Taylor, DEC Region 6
T. Seguljic, HRP Associates
D. Lisa, HRP Associates



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

1.0 PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

1.a. Target Area and Brownfields

1.a.i Background and Description of Target Area

Mohawk Valley EDGE (Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation), (MVEDGE) a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3), regional economic development organization, is seeking an EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant to inventory, assess, investigate, and prepare community-driven revitalization strategies for brownfields. The impacts of the \$300,000 grant would be immediate, profound, and highly visible to the county's vulnerable blue-collar, aging population predominantly living in urban centers, small villages, and towns along the Mohawk River floodplain and historic Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor.

Beginning in the early 1800s, mining and manufacturing companies began to locate their facilities in resource-rich Oneida County. The construction of the Erie Canal along the Mohawk River, in the mid-1800s, vaulted the area to entrepreneurial dominance, becoming a global leader in design, engineering, and technology. As the manufacturing base grew, people migrated to the county's manufacturing hubs in Utica (furniture, heavy machinery, textiles, and lumber) and Rome (copper). The county's population peaked in 1970 at 273,037 followed by a decline to today's population of 228,671, which hastened with the closing of two dominant employment centers: Griffiss Air Force Base in 1995 and a nearby Lockheed Martin facility, eliminating nearly 7,000 civilian and military jobs virtually overnight due to the end of the Cold War. These closures precipitated a severe downturn and the failure of numerous local industrial facilities, including Duofold (100 jobs), Chicago Pneumatic, Union Fork and Hoe (75 jobs), Lasalle Labs (350 jobs), H.M. Quackenbush (90 jobs), and Daniel Green Slippers (400 jobs). Between 2006 and 2019, the region lost an additional 8,000 jobs across all sectors. Manufacturing was particularly hard hit, with the closing of dozens of plants and a net loss of 3,000 jobs.

The scale of contaminated properties and cumulative socioeconomic issues from the downturn cannot be overstated. The plant closures and loss of jobs have left disproportionately high concentrations of abandoned buildings, vacant sites, and housing - especially within the urban centers of Rome and Utica. These municipalities represent the region's population centers--classic rustbelt communities, situated along the Mohawk River and historic Erie Canal that continue to shoulder the brunt of the region's industrial legacy. Utica, the largest city in the region, suffered a significant population decline from a peak of 100,410 in 1960 to its current population of 59,000. Similarly, Rome's population peaked in 1960 at 51,646 and steadily declined to a population of 32,000 residents. The population decline has left behind not only known brownfields but also high rates of vacant and abandoned buildings. For example, within Rome, 92 sites occupying a total of 181 acres were identified as brownfields and over 17% of the housing units were identified as vacant. The impact upon Utica has been even more devastating. At least 49 brownfields sites have been identified that encompass an astounding 459 acres, and within the 1,100-acre urban core, 49% of lands are either vacant (32%) or industrial (17%). These high vacancy rates and brownfields numbers are indicative of decaying communities. Vacant properties that are not well-maintained compromise neighborhood safety, decrease property values and lead to homelessness. In particular, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office reported that a significant number of homeless youths that are involved with criminal activity and gangs are living in these abandoned buildings and congregating in downtown areas.

The target areas of the grant will be in downtown Utica and Rome specifically defined as:

- City of Rome Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA), Downtown Revitalization Area and adjacent Opportunity Zones (OZ) Census Tracts 219, 225 and 263
- Utica Gateway Historic Canal District BOA and adjacent OZ Census Tracts 20-1.02, 2903, 209 and 264

The devastating impacts of brownfields are concentrated in these target areas as evidenced by the fact that 41% (Utica) and 33% (Rome) of the population live below the poverty line and are impacted by environmental injustice issues - including income inequalities, proximity to brownfields, and increased vacancy rates.

1.a. ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s)

The target municipalities include 99 contaminated sites identified by the NYS State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). A sample of high-priority sites are identified below. Redevelopment of the noted sites

would have positive impacts including higher property values, and elimination of environmental hazards.

- **Downtown Rome BOA (East Rome/Little Italy)** – A total of 15 brownfield sites have been identified in this run-down area spanning 200+acres in downtown Rome along the Mohawk River floodplain and historic Erie Canal Corridor. These sites, clustered along a 4-block, run-down corridor, are occupied primarily by gas stations and metalworking shops. No open spaces exist within this area. Little to no environmental information is available; however, it is suspected that buildings in the area contain asbestos and lead paint and soils and groundwater contain metals, including lead, Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons. (PAHs) and VOCs. Remediation of these sites will eliminate blight, residents’ potential exposure to harmful contaminants, and catalyze redevelopment of the area as a small-scale, neighborhood commercial use district that supports adjacent residences and centers of employment.

- **Former Gas Station on NYS Route 5, Sherrill** – This dilapidated property was recently acquired by the City of Sherrill (due to tax delinquency) and intended to be transferred to a local developer to be converted into retail space along a mixed-use corridor. After removal of the underground storage tanks, it was determined that the soils and groundwater are contaminated with petroleum products. Additional investigations to determine the extent, severity, and remediation options are inhibited due to lack of funding. Redevelopment will remove blight.

- **101 Matthew Street, Utica** – This is an abandoned, boarded up 3-story housing unit in a residential section of Utica. Due to its age, the building likely contains hazardous building materials including asbestos, lead paint and underground heating oil tanks. Located in a residential area, this uncontrolled site poses a threat to the area’s children. The intended site reuse is a multi-family building.

1.b. Revitalization of the Target Area

1.b.i. Redevelopment Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The Target Area revitalization strategy is outlined in Utica and Rome Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Programs which are area-wide plans to address brownfields based existing economic and environmental conditions associated with brownfield blight. A summary of the BOAs and other plans are outlined below.

- Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC) – heavily focused on building vibrant communities through Environmental Justice, Smart Growth, and access to opportunity.
- From Brown to Green: Downtown Rome BOA – one of the first legislated BOAs in NYS, targeting Rome’s former manufacturing districts; a community-driven strategy to encourage remediation, adaptive reuse of industrial buildings for residential and commercial use, in-fill development and accessible public spaces.
- Rome Erie Boulevard BOA - provides guidelines and ordinances to redevelop 575 acres along the Erie Canal, in which brownfields litter high-density neighborhoods, with recreational opportunities and reuse of existing underutilized/vacant buildings for housing and mixed-use development.
- Rome Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) - spans both of Rome’s BOAs and advances these plans to redevelop downtown through green infrastructure, quality public spaces, arts & culture, Main Street revitalization, and innovative affordable housing design.
- Utica DRI - guides the redevelopment of Utica downtown as an attractive, sustainable downtown by revitalizing buildings for housing, retail, restaurants, and offices. The plan also updates Zoning Ordinance to incorporate energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable design, and smart growth principles.

The redevelopment of selected brownfields aligns with the local governments land use and revitalization plan as evidenced below in the following examples:

- **Downtown Rome BOA (East Rome/Little Italy)** – this area is intended to be developed as a mixed-use district with commercial main street uses occupying the street level and residential on the upper floors by reusing/converting existing buildings, focusing on in-fill development, energy-efficient architecture, and adaptive reuse. Rome has passed comprehensive zoning code reform (form-based code, special overlay districts) to accommodate innovative, sustainable infill design. In addition, to address the lack of open space, a multi-use trail is proposed to connect the area residents to two nearby parks and city-wide trail networks. The planned reuse is in alignment with BOA and Downtown Redevelopment Initiatives (DRI) Strategic Investment Plans that were developed through extensive public engagement, design charrettes, and legislative action.

- **Former Gas Station on NYS Route 5, Sherrill** will be redeveloped as a Main Street retail space in line with the

local community land use and plans providing entrepreneurial opportunities and supporting adaptive reuse of the Silver City Industrial Park. No ordinance or zoning changes are required to achieve the noted site reuse.

- **101 Matthew Street, Utica** will be developed as multi-family housing in line with Utica land use and plans to establish higher quality, market-appropriate housing choices to address Utica housing needs to provide updated housing for sensitive populations. No ordinance or zoning changes are required to achieve the noted site reuse.

1.b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Redevelopment Strategy

A combination of public and private investments will focus on remediation, demolition, and adaptive reuse of the noted priority brownfields located within the noted areas. Based on economic analysis provided by the plans noted in Section 1.b.i projected outcomes and benefits include:

- Removal of blight, remediation, and reuse of up to 150 acres of vacant, compromised property
- Creation of over 100,000 ft² of commercial/residential space including adaptive reuse of existing buildings
- Installation of 3 MW photovoltaic system on former cable manufacturing site adjacent to Clinton's Ditch
- Retention and Creation of 300 jobs over 5 years
- Development of one additional mile of multi-purpose trail, sidewalk, and pedestrian connections within Rome's East Rome/Little Italy sub-area to enable residents' access to schools, jobs, and public spaces.
- 5 to 15% property value increase within 0.5 miles of project site within 5 years (Univ. of Wisconsin–Milwaukee)
- Reduction of housing vacancy rates within project areas tract by 10% within 5 years
- Pad-ready sites to accommodate affordable housing, mixed use, local business expansion, and start-ups
- Elimination of potential sensitive population exposure to VOCs, asbestos and lead paint

The target areas include Opportunity Zones, and MVEDGE is utilizing **Opportunity Zone Tax Incentives** to attract private entities to invest in the site investigation and development of brownfields within the designated areas.

1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

Utica and Rome each received \$10M DRI grants to fund redevelopment of downtown property including brownfields. As a private, not-for-profit, MVEDGE is eligible for funding from state and federal agencies and will utilize the DRI funding to leverage additional funding from the sources listed below to complete environmental assessment, remediation, and subsequent reuse at brownfield sites:

- NYSDEC Environmental Restoration Program and Brownfield Cleanup Program Tax Credits provide grants and tax credits to private applicants for remediation and redevelopment of brownfields
- EPA brownfields assessment or cleanup funds for eligible entities
- NYS RESTORE provides remediation and building demolition funds to eligible public and private entities
- NYSERDA Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act initiative for siting solar facilities on former brownfield sites
- Big Ditch PILOT Increment Financing (PIF) District - allows for payment in lieu of taxes, sales tax abatements, and a 20-year PILOT schedule for each new project in downtown Rome
- Oneida County IDA offers payment in lieu of taxes and Industrial Development Bond financing
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development – offers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to the entitlement communities of Rome and Utica to assist with blight elimination
- US Internal Revenue Service provides tax incentives to private investors for investment in projects located in Opportunity Zones (four (4) in Utica and three (3) in Rome)

1. cii. Use of Existing Infrastructure

Each of the target areas has a rich industrial history of development. During strategic redevelopment planning, extensive review of existing infrastructure was conducted - demonstrating adequate sewer, water, roads, public transportation, electric, and natural gas to accommodate new development. Existing infrastructure is robust, requiring no major additional infrastructure funding. If needed, available resources include: Rome or Utica DRI funding for infrastructure; RESTORE NY for adaptive reuse and site development; US Economic Development Administration (EDA) for new infrastructure; and Empire State Development Grant Funds for sewer, water and street improvements.

2.0 COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.a. Community Need

2.a.i. The Community's Need for Funding

Oneida County, Utica, and Rome each face a budget shortfall of approximately 20%. In addition, the governments face potential losses of millions in revenue due to COVID, including declining sales tax, higher spending necessary to respond to the health emergency; loss of state reimbursement; and the potential of significant losses for small businesses that threaten jobs and the property tax base. This is on top of the fact that with no growth, the only option is to increase taxes on an already overburdened population of elderly and working poor. Oneida County, especially the target areas, has experienced limited private investment for decades. The absence of investment has led to aging buildings, a lack of vibrant and animated public spaces, limited housing choices and employment opportunities--all resulting in a population decline of 44,366 or 16% from 1970 to 2019. This continuing cycle of lack of investment and dwindling population has depressed home values and personal incomes, hampering the target area's ability to increase tax revenue. For example, Utica has reached its municipal borrowing limit, and its urban sprawl and high percentage of non-taxable property have conspired to make the combined property tax rate one of the highest in the nation. An eroding tax base and overburdened taxpayers exist within each of the target municipalities. Vacant or underutilized brownfield properties are a major contributing factor to high tax rates in the County's cities and villages.

2.a.ii Threats to Sensitive Populations

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

The identified sensitive population within the Target Area is the large number of impoverished residents, pregnant women, and children. Greater than 40% of the population is below the poverty line, three (3) times the rate in NYS. More alarming, greater than 50% of children under 5 and pregnant women below 24 years of age live in poverty, with 23% of Rome residents and 33% of Utica residents receiving food stamp assistance (Demographic Statistical Atlas) far exceeding NYS rate of 15%. Seniors and children make up 34% of the Target Area population with seniors accounting for approximately 20% and children, 14% (2013-2017 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates). The Target Area is indicated on the USDA Food Access Research Atlas as low-income census tracts where significant numbers of residents are one mile from the nearest supermarket. In addition, many of the brownfields exhibit VOCs, lead, PAH, and asbestos containing materials. Statistics outlining other health issues in the Target Area are presented in the section below and include higher than average rates of cancer, infant mortality, and elevated blood lead levels in children.

According to the U.S. CDC, lead interferes with the development of the body's organs, especially in young children, where it impedes learning. In addition, a 2009 Columbia University study determined that high exposure to PAHs by pregnant women causes lower IQ and childhood asthma. The brownfield grant will identify and eliminate environmental hazardous substances in the area's soils/groundwater and lead from the area's housing that adversely impact the area's sensitive populations.

SUNY Cobleskill's Institute for Rural Vitality indicates reduced access to fresh and healthy food options for the sensitive populations within the Target Area; partially a result of the blighting influence on urban commerce.

(2) Greater than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

The Oneida County Community Health Assessment indicated the presence of higher rates of disease and adverse health conditions when compared to NYS:

- Rates of Emergency Department visits and hospital discharges for asthma are 2 times the NYS rate
- Rates of Heart Diseases Hospitalizations are 142.2 per 10,000, significantly higher than NYS 126.0 per 10,000
- Infant death rates (<1 year of age per 1000 births) and neonatal death rates (<28 days) are 50% higher than NYS
- Incidence of lung and bronchial cancer are 130% of the NYS rate
- Incidence rate of elevated blood lead levels (10+ug/dl) in children under 6 years of age of 29.8/1,000 is almost 5 times higher than NYS (6.0/1,000)

Lung and bronchial disease and premature birth rates can be partially attributed to the area's residents' chronic exposure to PAHs and VOCs, which are present in the area's fill. The elevated blood lead levels in children is due to the high lead levels in soils, likely attributed to children living in housing that was predominantly built in the early 19th century. Lead poisoning is a serious concern to children, pregnant women and low-income populations in the

Utica and Rome area. It ranks #1 in New York, with 29.8 children per 1,000 testing positives for lead poisoning. Large tracts of pre-1950, substandard rental housing with original single pane windows covered in lead-based paints expose large numbers of those living in poverty. In addition to lead exposure from housing, the sensitive population is susceptible to adverse impacts of metals, VOCs and PCBs and petroleum since they are living in the shadows of brownfields. The assessment grant will help identify brownfield sites that are directly contributing to greater than normal incidence of disease and adverse health conditions – helping to target neighborhoods most vulnerable.

(3) Disproportionately Impacted Populations

EJScreen indicators show 70 percentile or more for most environmental indicators. Population data indicates a high rate of minorities and poverty in the Target Area. The income inequality and environmental justice issues including abandoned buildings and vacant sites pose health hazards. In addition, some of the remaining industrial uses are creating adverse environmental impacts on the neighborhood with dust, noise, and truck traffic that lower property values and the quality of life. This environmental injustice is made worse because the impoverished residents impacted by brownfields cannot afford to move away from them.

Another sign of distress and impact on the population is substance abuse. The area's opiate-related Emergency Room visit rate of 21.9/100,000 is significantly higher than the NYS rate of 14.3/100,000.

The assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated sites in the target area will help to alleviate these concerns by providing affordable housing and places of employment, boosting household income, and providing a brighter future for residents. Due to unsustainable practices and the legacy of poor environmental practices and decreasing budgets, the Target Area's sensitive communities have suffered disproportionately. Through this grant, the project partners can uncover the causes of the threats and establish practices and promote reuse that are more responsive to the needs of these stakeholders.

2.b. Community Engagement

2. b.i. Community Involvement & b.ii Project Roles

MVEDGE has formed a Brownfields Interagency Work Group that has guided and overseen community brownfields efforts and has provided key input for the creation of a brownfields inventory, helped secure property access for assessment, and played robust roles in reuse planning. MVEDGE recently hosted the following community engagement events in preparation of brownfield redevelopment:

- The Oneida Brownfields Interagency Work Group - Attendees included municipalities with brownfields, NYSDEC, City of Rome, and City of Utica, prospective developers, EPA, CCLR and community leaders
- The Mohawk Valley Opportunity Zone Forum – Identifies and discusses projects within the federally designated zones. Attendees include realtors, developers, community leaders, planners, and financial institutions interested in investing in Opportunity Zones in Oneida County
- The Erie Boulevard BOA Steering Committee created a vision for the Erie Boulevard BOA
- The Site Selectors Guild Advisory Forum - Community members and stakeholders engaged with Site Selectors and discussed investment-readiness

The following organizations are aligned with the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of brownfields:

Partner Name	Point of Contact	Specific Role
City of Rome Department of Community & Eco. Dev.	Matt Andrews, Director; Diana Samuels, Brownfields Planner; mandrews@romecitygov.com (315) 339-7628	- Assist with site evaluation, and selection - Leverage local financial and planning resources - Ensure revitalization planning alignment with BOA guiding principles/strategies
Refugee Center for Refugees in Mohawk Valley	Dzevad Racic, Director dzevadr@thecenterutica.org (315) 378-1083 x118	- Provide outreach to refugee population - Help to overcome language/cultural barriers to participation from diverse populations
Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency	Amy Turner, CCAP Executive Director; (315) 624-9930	- Provide outreach to people in poverty - Obtain input from people in poverty - Encourage community engagement

Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation	Roberto Angelicola; rob@rointeriors.com	- Community engagement for brownfield revitalization activities in the city - Assist with site evaluation and selection
Utica Urban Renewal Agency & Utica Industrial Development Agency	Brian Thomas, Director bthomas@cityofutica.com (315) 792-0193	- Project Lead for Utica BOA and coordination of financial incentives for redevelopment of Utica priority sites
Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Dev. Council	Allison Nowak, Deputy Director Allison.nowak@esd.ny.gov (315) 793-2366	- Alignment with Regional Strategies - Coordinator for financial assistance for redevelopment through NYS CFA
Oneida County Economic Development	David Catalfamo, Director dcatalfamo@ocgov.net (315) 793-6080	- Identification and prioritization of sites - Coordination of projects with County-driven economic development initiatives
Rome Area Chamber of Commerce	Adam Hovak, Chairman (315) 337-1700 info@RomeChamber.com	- Community outreach - Weekly email newsletter platform - Host online and in-person events
Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce	520 Seneca St. Suite 102, Utica, NY; (315) 724-3151	- Community outreach - Provide meeting space - Energize local leaders; social media blasts
Utica Public Library	Director: Chris Sagaas 303 Genesee St. Utica, NY (315) 735-2279	- Provide meeting space - Document repository
Rome Public Library (Jervis Public Library)	Director: Lisa Matte 613 North Washington St. Rome, NY 13440;(315) 336-4570	- Provide meeting space - Document repository - Facilitate youth education on brownfields
Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties	Alicia Dicks, Executive Director 2608 Genesee Street Utica, NY 13502 (315)735-8212 https://foundationhoc.org/	- Facilitate planning charrettes - Leverage community funding & resources - Social media and stakeholder engagement - Work with local gov't & nonprofit leaders
Oneida County Planning	James Genovese, Planning Commissioner Union Station, 3 rd Floor Utica, NY 13501 (315)798-5710	- Provide Geographic Information Systems data development and mapping - Drone reconnaissance of strategic sites to generate imagery and surface modeling

2.b. iii. Incorporating Community Input

MVEDGE will implement a Community Engagement Plan that will engage local/regional developers, site selectors, residents, sensitive populations, property owners and businesses. They will ask for public input and educate the public about the availability of resources for brownfield cleanup. Presentations will continue to be held at monthly meetings of the local Industrial Development Agencies, Economic Development groups, neighborhood associations, Chambers of Commerce, and council meetings to obtain and respond to public input. Relevant public input will be incorporated into the grant activities. In 2020, MVEDGE invested thousands into a WebEx system.

At least four (4) times a year, targeted outreach will be completed for sensitive populations and community and business leaders. This will be done through MVEDGE's website; via informational flyers at community hubs and local meeting places (ex- South Rome Senior Center, Community Foundation headquarters, Refugee Center, etc.); and by providing information to media. As necessary, handicap services, hearing devices, and multilingual translation services for refugee and Hispanic stakeholders will be provided at these meetings. Community input will be weighed when selecting sites, completing site evaluations, and preparing site redevelopment plans. Relevant documents associated with the assessment grant will be available on the MVEDGE website, and hard copies will be maintained at MVEDGE office, and the Rome and Utica public libraries for public review.

COVID-19 response has armed us with new digital tools to enhance community engagement strategies, including:

- *New Webex Platform:* MVEDGE has invested thousands of dollars in enhanced web-based conferencing systems in order to make meetings, calls, and engagement universally accessible.

- *Video stream meetings, and link agendas and documents* - To create an effective online meeting video segments timestamped and linked to agendas, minutes, and supporting documentation; and
- *Optimize for accessibility* - Meeting web pages and content will be checked to ensure documents are screen-reader friendly for accessibility. Closed captioning will be used when streaming videos. Public meeting online participation tools will be used to solicit the public's comments at each event. Comments will be responded to during the meeting and any comments that affect the workplan will be brought to the Work Group for consideration.

3.0 TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

3a. Description of Tasks and Activities (i.- iv.)

Task 1: Project Management
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : Project will be completed within three (3) years with the assistance of staff and QEP. Upon receipt of the grant, MVEDGE will form a Brownfield Task Force including members noted in section 2.b.i, NYSDEC and EPA. The Task Force will formalize plans and decision-making processes, then disseminate information at milestones (completion of tasks 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) to make informed decisions. <u>Project Reporting and Coordination</u> : Includes preparation of required reports, ACRES database input, consultant oversight, project coordination, coordination with EPA and NYSDEC, development of access agreements, attending roundtables and National Brownfield Conference and Selection of QEP [see Section 4.a.ii]. In-Kind : Task Force creation, QEP consultant selection, Service Agreements and County Attorney consultation
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Task Force creation and QEP selection Qtr.1, then Project Reporting completed quarterly
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s): MVEDGE
iv. Output(s): Brownfield Task Force Formation, project reporting / coordination and QEP Selection
Task 2: Community Outreach
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : MVEDGE will conduct community participation, in cooperation with the entities identified in 2.b. ii. The participation will involve the community in the decision-making process and identifying sites and potential reuse options. Planned outreach includes providing up-to-date project information on MVEDGE website, creating/disseminating information via flyers at community meetings; bulletin boards; releasing articles to local newspapers and radio stations; and conducting outreach meetings with community organizations. If necessary, handicap and hearing impediments will be addressed, and translation services will be provided. Also, on-line meeting options will be used if necessary, to address COVID-19 concerns. In-Kind : Meeting attendance, supplies, Community Outreach
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Information will be published quarterly, and meetings will be conducted at Project Initiation, selection of sites, Completion of Phase Is, completion of Phase IIs and completion of remediation plans.
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s): MVEDGE and QEP
iv. Output(s): Outreach material, effective communication, materials and reports available for volunteer council
Task3: Site Data Collection and Inventory
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : QEP will conduct a windshield survey of identified sites and review file information (Building Department Assessor, etc.). Potential environmental issues and economic potential will be reviewed to rank the sites. In-Kind : Review and provide relevant property information
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Qtr.1 of Year 1 / Completed within first six (6) months of initiation
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s): QEP
iv. Output(s): Brownfield Site Inventory
Task 4: Site Selection
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : The Task Force will review the inventory and work through the community participation and outreach process to identify potential public and private sites for assessments and investigation. In-Kind : Reviewing and recommending Sites

ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Qtr. 2 of Year 1 / Completed within first six (6) months of initiation
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s) Task Force and QEP
iv. Output(s): Selected Site for Investigation
Task 5: Phase I ESAs:
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : The QEP will perform 10 Phase I ESAs in accordance with ASTM 1527-13 and All Appropriate Inquiry Rule to evaluate the potential for on-site contamination and hazardous building materials. If site is privately owned, QEP will work with the county attorney and site owner to obtain an Access Agreement prior to initiating work.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Qtr. 1 of Year 1 / Completed within first six (6) months of initiation
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s) QEP, MVEDGE
iv. Output(s): 10 Phase I ESAs
Task 6: Phase II ESAs
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : QEP will complete Phase II ESAs for up to six (6) hazardous substance sites. Initially, QEP will provide EPA-Compliant, site-specific QAPPS, sampling and analysis plans, and site-specific health and safety plans (HASPs). All documents will be submitted for EPA review and approval prior to implementation.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Quarter 2 and 3 of Year 1 / Completed by Qtr. 4 of Year 1
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s): QEP
iv. Output(s): 4 Phase II ESAs
Task 7: Reuse and Remediation Planning
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : The QEP will complete remedial action plans and reuse plans and appropriate clean-up alternatives for six (6) sites including sustainable design and real estate market analysis. These plans can be leveraged with other grant funds or future EPA Brownfield Clean-Up grants.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Qtr. 4 of Year 1 / Completed by end of Qtr. 1 of ear 2
iii. Task/Activity Lead(s): QEP
iv. Output(s): 3 reuse plans

3.b. Cost Estimates

TASK	COST DESCRIPTION
1: Project Management	In-Kind: Task Force Creation and QEP consultant selection: 30 hrs. x \$30/hr. = \$900; Service Agreements: \$2,000 lump sum attorney fees
	EPA Fund Roundtable/National Brownfield Conference: \$2,500 in travel costs Reports/Database Maintenance/Consultant Oversight/Project Coordination: \$3,440 (\$2,408 Personnel; + \$1,032 Fringe Benefits)
2: Community Outreach	In-Kind: Meeting attendance - 12 meetings x 3 hr./meeting x \$30/hr. = \$1,080 Supplies: Outreach Supplies (poster displays, brochures, and other Educational Materials) = \$750; Community Outreach (Total =\$10,500)
	EPA Fund Creates outreach materials, organizes/facilitates public outreach and training sessions (10 sessions at \$800 per session): \$8,000 Prepare/disseminate materials: \$1,000 Hearing impaired service 10 meetings 2 hr. meeting: \$1,500
3: Site Data Collection	In-Kind: Service: File review 30 hrs. x \$30/hr. = \$900
	EPA Fund: Site Inventory data collection, review, and presentation: \$5,540
4: Site Selection	In-Kind: Reviewing Sites: 40 hr. x \$30/hr. = \$1,200
5: Phase I ESAs	EPA Fund: 10 x \$3,250 average per Phase I = \$32,500
6: Phase II ESAs	EPA Fund: Five (5) Phase II sites x \$28,704 average per site = \$143,520
7: Reuse & Remediation Planning	EPA Fund: Eight (8) sites x \$12,750 average per plan = \$102,000

Budget Categories		Hazardous Substance Assessment Tasks (\$)							Total
		Project Mgmt.	Community Outreach	Site Data Collection	Site Selection	Phase I ESAs	Phase II ESAs	Reuse & Remediation Planning	
Direct Costs	Personnel	\$2,920	\$1,500						\$4,420
	Fringe Benefits								
	Travel ¹	\$2,500							\$2,500
	Equipment ²								
	Supplies		\$1,000						\$1,000
	Contractual		\$8,000	\$5,540		\$32,500	\$143,520	\$102,000	\$292,080
	Other								
Total Direct Costs ³		\$5,940	\$10,500	\$5,540		\$32,500	\$143,520	\$102,000	\$300,000
Indirect Costs ³									
Total Budget (Total Direct Costs Indirect Costs)		\$5,940	\$10,500	\$5,540		\$32,500	\$143,520	\$102,520	\$300,000

¹Traveling to brownfields-related training conferences is an acceptable use of these grant funds.
²EPA defines equipment as items that cost \$5,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year. Items costing less than \$5,000 are considered supplies. Generally, equipment is not required for brownfield grants.
³Administrative costs (direct and/or indirect) cannot exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds.

3.c. Measuring Environmental Results

MVEDGE will track, measure and report outputs (e.g., the number of completed Phase I and Phase II ESAs and public meetings) and outcomes (e.g., acres of land assessed; land remediated and redeveloped; number of jobs created or retained; tax revenue generated; redevelopment investment value; and other funding leveraged) in ACRES. The actual outputs will be compared to the estimated number of outputs listed in Section 3.b. MVEDGE will document outcomes/outputs that cannot be easily entered into ACRES (i.e., website updates, staff training, and community outreach/meetings) in quarterly reports. MVEDGE will evaluate the project progress semi-annually and, if goals are not being met, will meet with local stakeholders and the QEP(s) to discuss the shortcomings and adjust the project approach.

4.0 PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

4. a. Programmatic Capability

4. a.i and ii Organizational Structure and Description of Key Staff

This grant will be managed by MVEDGE's diverse staff of 14 – including planning, accounting, and communications. The team assembled for this assessment project has extensive experience and expertise in site development, adaptive reuse, and managing state and federal grant-funded projects, particularly brownfields:

Management: Christian Mercurio, VP of Planning & Development will be responsible for the overall program management including grant financial management, QEP selection, overseeing the Brownfield Task Force, site selection, ACRES reporting, and site access agreements. Since 2007, Christian has been the brownfields project lead and owner's representative for seven (7) Environmental Restoration Program sites, one NYS Superfund Site, and multiple not-for-profit-owned brownfield remediation/redevelopment sites. Christian has managed, or is currently managing, multiple local, state, and federal grant programs including USDA, Empire State Development, Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Green Infrastructure Grant Program, etc. Christian sits on the Erie Boulevard BOA Steering Committee, serves on the planning committee and as a panelist for Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) workshops and forums in NYS, and participates in EPA Region 2 Interagency Work Group meetings. Also actively uses KSU TAB BiT application for seamless integration into ACRES.

Management Assistance: Maureen Carney, Chief Financial Officer, and Sokunthideth Chea, Accountant, will be responsible for procurement, payment processing, tracking, and reimbursement requests. MVEDGE's administration and accounting team has extensive experience in federal grant financial management and Uniform Guidance. Jennifer Waters, VP of Communications, will also join the team; responsible for facilitating public engagement, coordinating press releases with EPA, and developing printed and digital public engagement materials. Laura Cohen, MWBE specialist, will play a supporting role in engagement and procurement.

4. a.iii Acquiring Additional Resources

Additional expertise and resources, such as contractors/QEPs, will be contracted through appropriate RFP processes. This process will adhere to the EPA's solicitation clauses. Legal counsel for EDGE can be consulted at no cost to the project, and has extensive experience with complex brownfield revitalization projects. Additionally, Oneida County Planning has committed technical assistance for this project through Legislative action; as have the Cities of Rome and Utica. The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties has signed on to assist with stakeholder engagement and EJ activities in underserved neighborhoods.

4. b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

4. b. ii. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements

(1) **Purpose and Accomplishments:** MVEDGE has not received an EPA Brownfield Grant to date but has received other Federal/Non-Federal Assistance agreements. Previous grants have been successfully completed, on time, on budget, and in compliance with all regulations. MVEDGE staff is comprised of planners, accountants, and project managers who have municipal and non-profit backgrounds and have been involved in multiple USEPA projects.

(2) Examples of grants awarded to MVEDGE, previously completed, and/or under management provided below:

MVEDGE GRANT ADMINISTRATION					
Granting Agency	Date / Amount	Status	Purpose	Outputs	Outcomes
USDA Rural Development Grant(s)	2016-2019/ \$460k	Completed	Strategic planning/feasibility analyses, Rural Revolving Loan-Lease Program	Ethan Allen furniture expansion planning; Agribusiness feasibility; revolving loan-leaseback program	- 1 Agribusiness study completed - 1 industrial expansion study - 5 small business loan-leasebacks managed
NYS Environmental Restoration Program (Managed for OC IDA)	2005-2019/ \$2.5+ M	Completed	Investigation and remediation of 2 brownfield sites, 4 Operable Units	4 Records of Decision (4 operable units) Preferred Remedial Alternatives developed for each of 4 operable units.	Construction of 50,000 SF manufacturing facility and demolition/final remediation at adjacent site
NYS Empire State Development Grants	2011-2019/ \$140+ M	Completed	Site development, business assistance, and brownfield remediation	Strategic Planning & Feasibility Studies (SPFS), Economic Transformation Program	Semiconductor infrastructure development, industrial development at 3 sites, direct business assistance to 4 advanced manufacturing and technology firms

(3) **Compliance with Grant Requirements:** Each of the projects listed above have been managed in compliance with the grant requirements. MVEDGE accounting staff is well versed in Uniform Guidance, and has developed Work Plans and successfully negotiated contracts with government agencies. MVEDGE has and continues to comply with the Work Plans and their associated schedules, terms, and conditions. MVEDGE has conducted community engagement programs, complied with financial status reporting requirements, and successfully compiled required data. Furthermore, MVEDGE staff and community partners (City of Rome Planning, Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation, and Utica City Planning) have familiarized themselves with the KSU TAB BiT web/mobile application, leading to a seamless transition to the USEPA ACRES reporting database.

THRESHOLD CRITERIA 2021 BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation (MVEDGE)

Statement of Applicant Eligibility: Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation is eligible to apply for a brownfield assessment grant as a private, not for profit, 501(c) (3) regional economic development organization serving Oneida and Herkimer Counties in NYS (see attachment – IRS determination, 1997).

Description of Community Involvement:

MVEDGE will implement a Community Engagement Plan that will engage neighborhoods, local/regional developers, site selectors, residents, sensitive populations, property owners and businesses in the evaluation and revitalization process. EDGE will ask for public input and educate the public about the availability of resources for brownfield remediation and revitalization. Presentations will continue to be held at monthly meetings of the local Industrial Development Agencies, Economic Development groups, neighborhood associations, Chambers of Commerce, and council meetings to obtain and respond to public input. Relevant public input will be incorporated into the grant activities. In 2020, MVEDGE invested thousands into a WebEx system, increasing our reach and accessibility for community, government, and non-profit partners.

At least four (4) times a year, targeted outreach will be completed for sensitive populations and community and business leaders. This will be done through MVEDGE's website; via informational flyers at community hubs and local meeting places (ex- South Rome Senior Center, Community Foundation headquarters, Refugee Center, etc.); and by providing information to news organizations. If necessary, handicap services, hearing devices, and multilingual translation services for refugee and Hispanic stakeholders will be provided at these meetings. Community input will be weighed when selecting sites, completing site evaluations, and preparing site redevelopment plans. Relevant documents associated with the assessment grant will be available on the MVEDGE website, and hard copies will be maintained at MVEDGE office, and the Rome and Utica public libraries for public review.

COVID-19 response has armed us with new digital tools to enhance community engagement strategies, including:

- *New Webex Platform:* MVEDGE has invested thousands of dollars in enhanced web-based conferencing systems in order to make meetings, calls, and engagement universally accessible.
- *Video stream meetings, and link agendas and documents* - To create an effective online meeting video segments timestamped and linked to agendas, minutes, and supporting documentation; and
- *Optimize for accessibility* - Meeting web pages and content will be checked to ensure documents are screen-reader friendly for accessibility. Closed captioning will be used when streaming videos. Public meeting online participation tools will be used to solicit the public's comments at each event. Comments will be responded to during the meeting and any comments that affect the workplan will be brought to the Work Group for consideration.

Expenditure of Assessment Grant Funds:

We hereby affirm that MV EDGE does not have a current Brownfields Assessment Grant, therefore, there is no available/remaining balance.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
G.P.O. BOX 1680
BROOKLYN, NY 11202

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: APR 14 1997

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROWTH
ENTERPRISES CORPORATION
C/O STEVEN J DIMEO
153 BROOKS ROAD
ROME, NY 13441

Employer Identification Number:
16-1492169

Case Number:
117063022

Contact Person:
NATALIE ALLEN

Contact Telephone Number:
(718) 488-2320

Accounting Period Ending:
December 31

Form 990 Required:
Yes

Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

We have further determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code, because you are an organization described in section 509(a)(3).

If your sources of support, or your purposes, character, or method of operation change, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. In the case of an amendment to your organizational document or bylaws, please send us a copy of the amended document or bylaws. Also, you should inform us of all changes in your name or address.

As of January 1, 1984, you are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more you pay to each of your employees during a calendar year. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other federal taxes, please let us know.

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(3) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(3) organization.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROWTH

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of Code sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

Contribution deductions are allowable to donors only to the extent that their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. See Revenue Ruling 67-246, published in Cumulative Bulletin 1967-2, on page 104, which sets forth guidelines regarding the deductibility, as charitable contributions, of payments made by taxpayers for admission to or other participation in fundraising activities for charity.

In the heading of this letter we have indicated whether you must file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. If Yes is indicated, you are required to file Form 990 only if your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. However, if you receive a Form 990 package in the mail, please file the return even if you do not exceed the gross receipts test. If you are not required to file, simply attach the label provided, check the box in the heading to indicate that your annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less, and sign the return.

If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. A penalty of \$10 a day is charged when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. However, the maximum penalty charged cannot exceed \$5,000 or 5 percent of your gross receipts for the year, whichever is less. This penalty may also be charged if a return is not complete, so please be sure your return is complete before you file it.

You are not required to file federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

In accordance with section 508(a) of the Code, the effective date of this determination letter is December 19, 1995.

This determination is based on evidence that your funds are dedicated to the purposes listed in section 501(c)(3) of the Code. To assure your

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROWTH

continued exemption, you should keep records to show that funds are expended only for those purposes. If you distribute funds to other organizations, your records should show whether they are exempt under section 501(c)(3). In cases where the recipient organization is not exempt under section 501(c)(3), there should be evidence that the funds will remain dedicated to the required purposes and that they will be used for those purposes by the recipient.

If distributions are made to individuals, case histories regarding the recipients should be kept showing names, addresses, purposes of awards, manner of selection, relationship (if any) to members, officers, trustees or donors of funds to you, so that any and all distributions made to individuals can be substantiated upon request by the Internal Revenue Service. (Revenue Ruling 56-304, C.B. 1956-2, page 306.)

Since you have not indicated that you intend to finance your activities with the proceeds of tax exempt bond financing, in this letter, we have not determined the effect of such financing on your tax exempt status.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert J. Huff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Herbert" being more prominent.

Herbert J. Huff
District Director

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS



**Memorializing Petition by
Board of Legislators,
Oneida County, New York**

F.N. 2020 -

A MEMORIALIZING PETITION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MOHAWK VALLEY EDGE'S APPLICATION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, FOR A COUNTY-WIDE BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT TO INVESTIGATE BROWNFIELDS ACROSS ONEIDA COUNTY.

SPONSORS: Messrs.

WHEREAS, with the support of the Oneida County Executive, Mohawk Valley Edge (MVEDGE) is applying to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for a County-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant for \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, MVEDGE and the Oneida County Executive are requesting a supporting resolution from the County of Oneida to demonstrate to the USEPA county-wide municipal collaboration; and

WHEREAS, there is no local match or other financial request from the County; and

WHEREAS, MVEDGE is seeking only planning and technical assistance in identifying, prioritizing, and planning for revitalization of these sites, including mapping and stakeholder engagement; and

WHEREAS, the money will be spent on eligible brownfield properties throughout Oneida County, focusing on Brownfield Opportunity Areas, the Erie Canal Corridor, and high-priority areas identified by City, Town, and Village leaders. Additionally, some of the grant funds will be available for community engagement and redevelopment/revitalization planning; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Planning Department will be working closely with MVEDGE in administering this grant, and will be engaging other partner cities, villages and towns across Oneida County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rome was one of the first USEPA Brownfields Pilot Projects in the United States (the former General Cable Site), and Rome has successfully completed USEPA community-wide assessment and brownfield cleanup projects, and is a key partner in this project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Utica has applied multiple times to the USEPA for cleanup grant funding, and will also be a key partner in the effort; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Department of Planning has worked tirelessly with MVEDGE to enhance planning efforts across the County, most recently in Boonville, Rome, Utica, Sangerfield, and Sherrill. Each are examples of the cities, villages, and towns that will benefit from this Brownfield Assessment Grant assistance; and

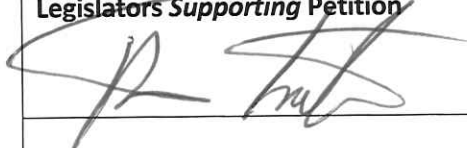
WHEREAS, Herkimer County and Montgomery County, our neighbors in the Mohawk Valley, are recent awardees of county-wide USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grants; and

WHEREAS, Oneida County has been instrumental in brownfield revitalization efforts in Rome, Utica, Boonville, and Griffiss Park, and the Department of Planning staff possess the key expertise – particularly in GIS and remote sensing – that are critical to this effort;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Oneida County Board of Legislators supports the application by Mohawk Valley Edge to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a County-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant, with the support of the Oneida County Executive, and in cooperation with the Oneida County Department of Planning.

Legislators Supporting Petition

Legislators Opposing Petition













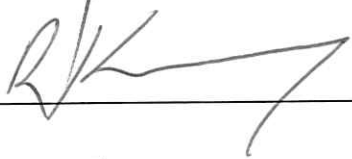


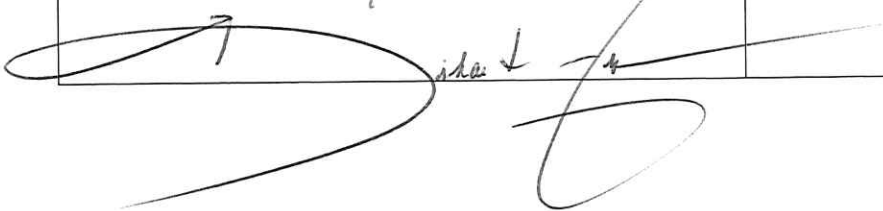






















<i>Legislators Supporting Petition</i>	<i>Legislators Opposing Petition</i>
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

The enclosed petition represents the opinion of those members of the Oneida County Board of Legislators signing the same regarding the contents or subject matter of the petition. Under the Rules of the Board, a Legislator may sign said petition or may, in the alternative, elect not to sign the petition. There are 23 members of the Oneida County Board of Legislators.

City of Utica
Department of Legislation
In Common Council

Utica, NY
October 21, 2020

Sponsored By: Councilmembers McNiel, Williamson

SUPPORT OF BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, grant funding has been made available through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended in 2002 by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act; and

WHEREAS, Mohawk Valley EDGE is eligible to apply for up to \$300,000 to establish a county-wide brownfield assessment program through this grant. There is no required match and no financial commitment required from the City of Utica; and

WHEREAS, brownfields within the City of Utica will be eligible for the assessment with a priority of sites that are located within the City's Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) boundaries. Grant funds will be used to seek planning and technical assistance in identifying, prioritizing and planning for the revitalization of the various sites; community engagement will be incorporated into all assessments. Applications are due to the US EPA by midnight on October 28, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Utica, New York does hereby affirm that the identification and assessment of brownfields is a priority relative to economic development and acknowledges that federal assistance is necessary to address the region's brownfield sites. As such, the Common Council does hereby support Mohawk Valley EDGE's US EPA county-wide brownfield assessment grant submission.

Yeas: McNiel, Burmaster, Friend, Meola, Betrus, Williamson, LoMedico, DiBrango – 8

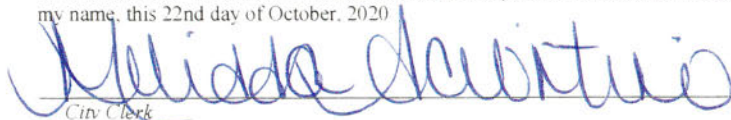
Nays: 0

Adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK, CITY OF UTICA)
City Clerk's Office) ss.

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a Resolution of the Common Council with the record of proceedings of the Common Council of said City of Utica, duly made and on file in this office, and that same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said Resolution.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto affix the Corporate Seal of said City, and subscribe my name, this 22nd day of October, 2020


City Clerk



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Jacqueline M. Izzo



October 26, 2020

Andrew Wheeler, Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

On behalf of the City of Rome, I am writing in support of Mohawk Valley EDGE's application to the US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant Program for \$300,000 to assist with the environmental assessments and revitalization planning for brownfields across Oneida County.

The City of Rome has been a leader for 20+ years in the remediation and revitalization of the region's most notorious brownfields. During the late 1990's, the City of Rome was one of the nation's very first recipients of the USEPA's "Brownfields Pilot Program," which led to the successful remediation and redevelopment of the infamous General Cable Site. In the early 2000's, the City of Rome completed the assessment of half a dozen more insidious brownfield sites, and went on to complete cleanups and revitalization projects totaling more than \$50 million over 20 years. To a small rural city, this has made a tremendous impact on our community's most vulnerable citizens, and it all started with the USEPA Brownfields Pilot project on the banks of the Erie Canal.

Working collaboratively with Mohawk Valley EDGE, we continue to engage local stakeholders, state agencies, and federal partners to implement a dynamic, comprehensive, community-driven revitalization plan for two Brownfield Opportunity Areas within the canal corridor. We have much work to do, and this assessment grant will be a critical tool in continuing implementation of the BOA strategies.

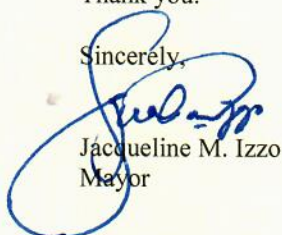
Having witnessed first-hand how powerful this funding is, we throw our full support behind EDGE's assessment application – in order that rural communities along the canal corridor can start the process of reclaiming their downtowns and waterfronts. This assessment grant will play a key role in rebuilding the region's economy.

The investigation, remediation, and redevelopment of brownfields is – now, more than ever – key to ensuring Environmental Justice in Rome. This funding would have an immediate impact in our City by encouraging new, equitable, sustainable investment on these blighted and vacant sites. Should we be so fortunate to share in the assessment grant project, the City of Rome will commit to in-kind technical assistance, site selection, community engagement, and redevelopment planning.

We appreciate your consideration of this application for countywide assessment funding, and we look forward to working together with MVEDGE and regional stakeholders to ensure a successful implementation of this program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline M. Izzo
Mayor

Rome City Hall, 198 N. Washington Street
Rome, New York 13440-5815
Phone: 315-339-7676 Fax: 315-339-7667
mayor@romecitygov.com



October 28, 2020

Andrew Wheeler, Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

On behalf of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, I am writing in support of Mohawk Valley EDGE's application to the US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant for \$300,000 to assist with the environmental assessments and revitalization planning for brownfields across Oneida County.

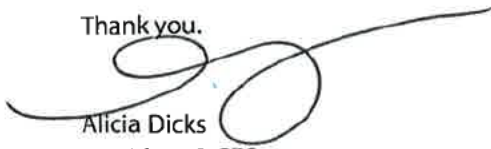
Mohawk Valley EDGE is a regional economic development organization that works collaboratively with businesses, municipalities, and institutions to grow the economy and build vibrant communities. Since 1952, The Community Foundation has invested more than \$75 million in Oneida and Herkimer counties. The Community Foundation partners with various local organizations to make impactful investments in core areas of need, including economic development, education, health, and arts and culture.

Currently, MVEDGE, the Community Foundation, and Oneida County have teamed up to conduct various regional and local planning projects to revitalize communities, neighborhoods, and downtowns around the region. Working collaboratively with the local stakeholders, state agencies, and federal partners while pooling our financial and technical resources has become a proven model for successful community revitalization in our cities, towns, and villages. This partnership has led to the investigation, remediation, and redevelopment of some of the region's most notorious brownfield properties.

The investigation, remediation, and redevelopment of brownfields is – now more than ever – a critical component of our Environmental Justice strategy. This funding would have an immediate impact in our Cities and Villages by clearing the runway for new investment on vacant sites within our population centers. The Community Foundation will commit technical and planning staff to assist with community engagement and to this project – ensuring that the most vulnerable neighborhoods have a voice in the revitalization planning process.

We appreciate your consideration of this application for county-wide assessment funding, and we look forward to working together with regional stakeholders on this program.

Thank you.



Alicia Dicks
President & CEO

Cc: Christian Mercurio, MVEDGE



October 26, 2020

Andrew Wheeler, Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

On behalf of the Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation, I am writing in support of Mohawk Valley EDGE's application to the US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup Program for \$300,000 to assist with the environmental assessments and revitalization planning for brownfields across Oneida County.

Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation (RCBRC) was formed nearly 20 years ago to tackle the remediation and revitalization of Rome's most notorious brownfields. These sites have been negatively impacting Rome's most vulnerable neighborhoods for decades. During the past two decades, RCBRC has successfully worked collaboratively with MVEDGE to remediate 40+ acres of contaminated sites, demolish nearly 500,000 square feet of blighted structures, and attract more than \$8 million in new investment to the former Rome Cable Complex in downtown Rome. As a result, together, RCBRC and MVEDGE have helped to retain and create more than 90 jobs in downtown Rome – where before, there was nothing but blight, decay, and despair.

Working collaboratively with the City, we were the driving force behind the Erie Boulevard Brownfield Opportunity Area in the heart of downtown Rome. Working collaboratively with local stakeholders, state agencies, and federal partners, we recently completed the Nomination Study – a dynamic, comprehensive, community-driven revitalization plan for the entire BOA. This assessment grant will play a key role in implementing our vision.

The investigation, remediation, and redevelopment of brownfields is – now, more than ever – key to ensuring Environmental Justice in Rome and the Mohawk Valley. This funding would have an immediate impact in our City by encouraging new, equitable, sustainable investment on these blighted and vacant sites. RCBRC will commit to serving as a community liaison for community engagement and revitalization planning.

We appreciate your consideration of this application for county-wide assessment funding, and we look forward to working together with MVEDGE and regional stakeholders to ensure a successful implementation of this program.

Thank you.



Roberto Angelicola
President

Cc: Christian Mercurio, MVEDGE

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

10/28/2020

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

BF

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corp.

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

* c. Organizational DUNS:

0205457810000

d. Address:

* Street1:

584 Phoenix Drive

Street2:

* City:

Rome

County/Parish:

* State:

NY: New York

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

13441-4913

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Planning & Development

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Mr.

* First Name:

Christian

Middle Name:

J

* Last Name:

Mercurio

Suffix:

Title: Vice President, Planning & Development

Organizational Affiliation:

Mohawk Valley EDGE

* Telephone Number:

3153380393

Fax Number:

3153385694

* Email:

cmercurio@mvedge.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.818

CFDA Title:

Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-OLEM-OBLR-20-06

* Title:

FY21 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Mohawk Valley EDGE Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant Project for Oneida County, NY

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="300,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="300,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☒ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed: